



## *Life's obstacles*

In the popular 1994 movie *The Shawshank Redemption*, the character Andy is wrongly convicted of murder and is incarcerated in the notoriously harsh Shawshank Prison. Andy works in the prison library which has very few resources except for some old tattered books and magazines. He begins a campaign to improve and expand the library and approaches the prison warden for funds.

The warden is reluctant to spend taxpayers' money on luxuries for convicted criminals. Andy is not deterred and so he asks the warden's permission to write to the State Senate for funds. Despite believing Andy's efforts are a waste of time, the warden promises to personally mail the letters.

Andy sets about sending one letter a week to the Senate, asking for assistance, believing that they can't ignore him forever. It takes six years but to Andy's amazement boxes of books are delivered to the prison, together with a cheque for \$200. A note is attached from the Senate stating that they now consider the matter closed!

Some of the prison officers are surprised that Andy's persistence has paid off. Andy becomes even more determined and starts writing two letters a week! The State realises Andy can't be bought off with \$200 and a few boxes of books. In the hope of silencing him, the State approves an annual payment of \$500. Andy made that



\$500 stretch as far as it would go. He did deals with book clubs and charity groups. The library was refurbished and it became *the* place to be. It was the best prison library in all of New England.

Despite the desperate situation he found himself in and the many obstacles he faced, Andy never gave up. His determination, his persistence and his commitment were rewarded. In today's gospel, we have another person in a desperate situation, with all sorts of cultural and social obstacles standing in her way.

A Canaanite woman, a descendant of one of the ancient enemies of Israel, approaches Jesus but is initially not welcomed. Still she persists in her request. She is a mother and her daughter is suffering. Naturally she is bold and tenacious when the life of a loved one is at stake. She refuses to be put off or give up. Although rebuffed by the disciples and ignored by Jesus, her sheer persistence has surprising results. Her persistence is seen by Jesus as evidence of great faith. He relents and heals her daughter.

Sometimes we struggle with persistence. We can give up when things become difficult. We can lose hope when things don't turn out as we planned. We can even stop praying when we don't get what we ask for. Whatever our situation, let us be persistent in our efforts, never giving up, and recognising God is always with us.

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Redemptorists 2017

### **OUR VISION**

"Everything is to be oriented towards the praise and glory of God".

### **OUR MISSION**

The St Agnes' Parish Community strives to make our Vision a reality by a commitment to:

- holiness in the image of Christ.
- proclaim the good news of salvation.
- minister within the faith community.
- the service of all, particularly those in need.



## First Holy Communion

On the following dates narrated Masses will be offered in preparation for the sacrament of Communion.

- Monday, 21 August at 5.15pm.
- Tuesday, 22 August at 5.15pm.

These Masses will have a commentator who will be explaining each part as it unfolds. This is a wonderful opportunity for our First Holy Communion candidates and their families to join us. In past years, the narrated masses have been very well attended and received by parishioners. The First Holy Communion candidates and their families will be celebrating the Sacrament at 6.00pm on the 4,5 & 6 September. We are so very fortunate to be sharing in the wonderful journey of these children and we really appreciate the ongoing support of parishioners. Thank you.



## St Agnes' Parish School Sacramental Program

If you know of any children in Year 3 or over who do not attend one of the parish Catholic schools and would like to prepare for their First Holy Communion please contact Stacey on 0438 287898 or email : sacramentalprogram@gmail.com for further information.

## Mackillop Centre First Holy Communion

In early September, our First Holy Communion candidates will be completing their Sacrament. To cater for this very special event the MacKillop Centre welcomes you! The centre is fully stocked with beautiful and affordable gifts, cards and books. Normal trading hours are Monday to Friday 10.00am - 2.00pm. Their helpful volunteers will be opening the doors on Saturday, 2 September 9.30am - 12.30pm to ensure you have time to get that special gift.

**New Location:** You can now find The MacKillop Centre at it's new location which is 106 Horton Street, Port Macquarie.

## Baptism Information Night

The next Baptism Information night will be held on Thursday, 24 August at 6.00pm in St Agnes' Church. If you are planning on having your child baptised it is important for you to attend an information session. If you have any questions please contact the Presbytery Office on 6583 1024.



PLEASE  
join us

## 'A Journey into the Catholic Faith'

Starting Wednesday 30 August

This is a course on the Catholic Faith for anyone aged 18 years and over.

The course aims at systematically proposing 'the Christian faith in its entirety and in its authenticity', in accordance with the Catholic Church's understanding. It begins with the proclamation of the 'core message of the Christian faith'. The program ends with the formation of a small group that facilitates growth in discipleship and equips members for ministry and mission.

It is for anyone who is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith from an adult perspective. So, this course is open to:

- Non-baptised adults, who are interested in joining the Catholic Church or simply inquiring about the Catholic faith;
- Non-Catholic baptised adults, who are interested in joining the Catholic Church or simply inquiring about the Catholic faith;
- Catholic adults, those baptised but feel insufficiently instructed in the Catholic faith, or those who have fallen away from the faith at some stage in their journey, and now want to rediscover the Catholic faith;
- Adult Catholics, those who consistently live their faith and sincerely desire to deepen it.

The program will be offered weekly and endeavours to meet your needs in your faith journey and support you in your growth. Information about the programme will be explained further on Wednesday 30 August at 5.30pm in the parish hall. For more information contact Fr Roland Agrisola on 6583 1024. The first topic will be:

### Why Do We Believe in God?

In this topic, we will discuss the desire of human beings to know what things are and why they are, the different conclusions men and women have come up with and then explore the reasons we believe in God. The questions to be explored are: What is the search for meaning of life? What are the different answers to the question about the meaning of life? What do Christians mean by "God"? What are the reasons we believe God exists? Why is there evil in the world?

## Pope Francis - Official Tweet

*In Mary we see that humility is not a virtue of the weak, but of the strong, who don't have to treat others badly to feel important.*



## Heart Women's Conference

At menALIVE we often get asked "What events are run for women? Why don't you do something like MAX for women?"

Well, the answer is: "We don't do that, we're a men's ministry."

But fortunately, our good friends at the Catholic Guy run an annual women's conference called Heart. This year it runs from 19-21 October, 2017. For further information and to register, go to the website: Heart Women's Conference or phone 1300 734 880.

### Wraps with Love

#### Thank You Morning Tea

The Catholic Women's League will be hosting a thank you morning tea for all who have participated or contributed in any way to the Wraps with Love. The knitters, sewers, crocheters, donators of wool or money. Morning tea will be held on Wednesday, 6 September at the Tenison Wood Centre, Lochinvar Place at 10am. For more information contact Monica on 6582 5770.



### Franciscan Retreat

Will be conducted over the weekend of 23 - 24 September by the Franciscan Order at the Francis Retreat, Bonny Hills. Fr John Cooper will be the spiritual leader. Overnight accommodation is available at the venue. The cost will be \$95.00 for meals and accommodation or \$35.00 per day with no accommodation. The retreat will commence at 10.00am on Saturday morning and conclude at approximately 3.00pm on the Sunday. For more information contact Joan on 6583 6549.

### Franciscan Prayer Group

A one hour spiritual reflection and prayer centred around the Gospels and based on Franciscan Spirituality will be held on Sunday, 20 August in the Tenison Woods Centre from 10.30am to 11.30am. For more information contact Charlie on 0413 848 476 or Joan on 6583 6549. All are welcome.



### Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship will be held at Bonny Hills, 2 Seabreeze Ct on Sunday, 20 August at 2.00pm until 3.00pm. This will be followed by afternoon tea. All are welcome, bring your voice and/or a musical instrument. Any enquiries to Suzanne on 6584 8192.



## Remember in Prayer

**Recently Deceased:** Geoffrey Kennedy, Chris Curran, Ron Brazier, Colin Doherty, Brendon Tudhope, Eileen Ford, Diane Cumming, Geoffrey Scott, Arthur Carnie, Johno Johnson, Pat Gillan, Rosario Relucio, Josefina Corsanes and Noli Gona.

**Anniversaries:** Nell and Frank Scott, Kevin & Charlie Scott, Max Blake, Jimmie Graham, Brian Macklin, Patrick Miller, Eric Pead, Edward Morcom, Joan Larsen, Joan Peake, Margaret Whitney, Raquel Familiar, Geoffrey Williams, Fr William Giessen, Fr Thomas King and Fr James Henderson.

**Other Mass Intentions:** Kathleen Connors, Pat Horvath, Jose Ngao, Josefina Azurin, Cyril & Eileen Bennett, Patricia Bennett, Phyllis Dunn, Edward Dunn, Julia O'Brien, Edward O'Brien, Eileen Monahan, Phil Moore, Trixie Davidson, Florence Shergood, Florence Turner, Mary Shiela Moon, Francis Sweeney, Beryl Thomas, deceased members of Dunn, O'Brien & Reilly family, Roitman and Byrne families, Brother Michael O'Connor, Marija Miller, Anne-Marie and Jim Meszes, donor intentions and masses of thanksgiving.



### Christian Meditation at St Francis' Chapel

We meet every Wednesday except the last Wednesday of the month, when Taize services are held. Join us for Christian meditation on Wednesday, 23 August. We will begin at 6.00pm and conclude at 6:30pm. Any questions contact Simon Mervyn-Jones on 0412 236 977.

### Our Lady Star of the Sea

Lake Cathie Conference of St Vincent de Paul are requesting donations of toiletries and surplus towels for the homeless and needy. Lake Cathie has been given a painting to be raffled in support of St Vincent de Paul's work with the needy. Tickets will be on sale during August and September after Mass. Donations can be left at the Presbytery Office. For more information please contact Carol Bennett on 6586 3347.



### Catholic Leader

Available for sale from the Presbytery on a Friday, or after weekend Masses for \$2.50.



Need help with your parish giving?

Call Trudi  
(02) 6588 7444



*Parish Giving Programme*

**Parish Priest**  
Father Leo Donnelly

**Assistant Priest**  
Father Peter Wood

**Assistant Priest**  
Father Roland Agrisola

**Pastoral Assistant**  
Peter O'Driscoll  
T (02) 6584 9970

**Presbytery Office**  
47 Hay Street Port Macquarie  
PO Box 23  
T (02) 6583 1024  
E [pastoraloffice@stagnesparish.org.au](mailto:pastoraloffice@stagnesparish.org.au)  
[www.stagnesparish.org.au](http://www.stagnesparish.org.au)

**Office Hours:**  
8.30am - 4.30pm

#### FEAST DAYS

**St Pius X**  
Monday 21 August

**The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Tuesday 22 August

**St Rose of Lima**  
Wednesday 23 August

**St Bartholomew**  
Thursday 24 August



**St Louis & St Joseph Calasanz**  
Friday 25 August

#### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD ROSTER Sunday, 20 August 2017

Leanne Kalchbauer  
Mandy Mowle  
Lani Gobius

## PARISH MASSES

**ST AGNES' CHURCH** | Hay Street, Port Macquarie

**Monday to Thursday:** 5.15pm

**Friday:** 12.05pm

**Saturday:** 8.00am, 6.00pm Vigil

**Sunday:** 7.30am, 9.00am, 5.00pm

**Please note:** Weekday Masses at 9.00am on Public Holidays

**Reconciliation:** Friday 11.30am -12 noon, Saturday 11.30am - 12.30pm

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:**

*1st Saturday of the month 8.30am - 9.30am.*

**ST FRANCIS CHAPEL** / Lochinvar Place, Port Macquarie

**Contact:** Sr Anne Hannigan

Ph 6589 9814 or 0419 243 259.

**Communion Service or Mass:** 9.30am Monday - Thursday

**Sunday Mass:** 9.30am

**CHRIST THE KING CHAPEL** | Boronia St, Port Macquarie

**Contact:** Sr Anne Hannigan

Ph: 6589 9814 or 0419 243 259

**Weekday Mass:** See Notice On Chapel Door

**Mass:** Saturday Vigil - 4.30pm

**Rosary:** 1st Saturday of the month 4.00pm.

**ST BERNARD'S, TELEGRAPH POINT** | Rollands Plain Rd, Telegraph Point

Thursday: 6.00pm.

**STAR OF THE SEA, LAKE CATHIE** | Ocean Drive, Lake Cathie

**Sunday:** 8.00am.

## ROSTERS

26-27 August 2017

### READERS AND COMMENTATORS

**6pm Vigil:** Margaret Swan  
George Searson

Sue Williams

**7.30am:** Darren Smith  
Damien Bennie

Brian Tierney

**9.00am:** Cathy Hawtin  
Matthew Field

Betty Hodgson

**5.00pm:** MacKillop College  
Daniel Underhill

### MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

**6pm Vigil:** Barry Johnson  
Jason Gill

Charlie Peoples

Des Grissell

**7.30am:** Pat McLoughlin  
Denise McLoughlin

Beverley Arthur-Pfeil

Wendy Pfeil

**9.00am:** Judy Brady  
Albert Jacobs  
Hank Brinkman  
Pat Daley

**5.00pm:** Fran Liddy  
Casey Whitehouse  
Peter Briscoe  
Carol Briscoe

### GIFT BEARERS ROSTER

**6pm Vigil:** W VanKerckhof &  
B Kenny

**7.30am:** S & K Panes

**9.00am:** L Fuller &  
J Howle

### THE STATUE OF OUR LADY Mrs Zilla Tonks

2 Macquarie Place

Port Macquarie

Phone: 6583 4713

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

**21st Sunday in OT - Year A**

Isaiah 22:19-23;

Psalms 137; Romans 11:33-36;

Matthew 16:13-20.

### DIOCESAN INVESTMENT FUND PAYS 2.15% AT CALL!

There are no fees or charges on your account. **AGENTS:** Mrs Veronica Rinkin & Mrs Mary O'Brien  
DIF Office, Parish Administration Centre, Phone: (02) 6583 7439 9am – 1pm Monday - Friday